

Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 241334Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2781

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 517

EXDIS

E. O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS : PINS, CASC, ET

SUBJ : TENNECO FIVE

1. IBRAHIM AL-MORGHANI VISITED ME AT 1500 LOCAL TODAY TO DISCUSS SITUATION OF TENNECO FIVE. I BEGAN BY THANKING HIM FOR HIS ASSISTANCE IN RETURNING MRS. DORTZBACH.

2. HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, ELF, COMPLAINING THAT TENNECO HAD NOT ANSWERED ITS LETTER OF 12.6.74. THEY SAID THAT IF THEY DID NOT RECEIVE AN ANSWER BY 25.6.74 THEY WOULD THEN APPROACH THE IEG FOR A SOLUTION. MORGHANI SAID HE ATTEMPTED TO CONVINCE THEM NOT TO BRING IEG INTO THE PICTURE SINCE THAT WOULD ONLY COMPLICATE MATTER. HE REQUESTED A LETTER FROM TENNECO REQUESTING THE RELEASE OF WEDERFORT AND/OR ANOTHER HOSTAGE AS A PRECONDITION TO CONTINUATION OF NEGOTIATIONS. I ASKED HIM TO WAIT UNTIL 1000 HOURS LOCAL 25 JUNE FOR AN ANSWER FROM TENNECO IF THEY WOULD WRITE SUCH A LETTER. IF I AM NOTIFIED BY 1000 HOURS TOMORROW THAT TENNECO WILL WRITE THE LETTER MORGHANI WILL CONTACT ELF TO REQUEST TWO OR THREE DAYS TO DELIVER THE LETTER. HIS CONTACT MAN IS FIELD COMMANDER IBRAHIM ALI NUR, A MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. ACCORDING TO MORGHANI, THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MUST HAVE THE SUPPORT OF IBRAHIM ALI NUR TO CARRY OUT ANY
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DECISIONS WITHIN HIS OPERATIONS AREA.

3. MORGHANI SUGGESTED THAT A PILOT BE SENT IN TO RETRIEVE HELICOPTER AND ONE OR TWO OF THE HOSTAGES. I TOLD HIM I DID NOT THINK TENNECO WOULD AGREE TO SEND ANOTHER MAN IN AND THAT WEDERFORT COULD BRING THE HELICOPTER OUT WITH ANOTHER HOSTAGE IF NECESSARY. MORGHANI WAS AWARE THAT WEDERFORT WAS SEPARATED FROM THE OTHER FOUR. HE BELIEVED HE COULD ARRANGE THIS BUT THAT IT WOULD REQUIRE MORE TIME BECAUSE OF THE DISTANCE TO BE TRAVELLED.

4. IN REGARD TO HIS MONETARY CLAIMS, MORGHANI SAID HE WAS WILLING TO LAY ASIDE THE CLAIM FOR \$200,000 AND ACCEPT WHATEVER TENNECO HAD TO OFFER.

5. ZEIN'S CONTACT SEEMS TO BE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, WHILE IBRAHIM ALI NUR IS ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. IF TENNECO 5 ARE NOT UNDER THE CONTROL OF IBRAHIM ALI NUR THEN MORGHANI MAY NOT BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE THEIR RELEASE. HOWEVER, THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE IF IBRAHIM ALI NUR CONTROLS THE GROUP. MORGHANI SAID HE WAS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO GET ELF TO NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH TENNECO AND NOT MAKE POLITICAL DEMANDS WHICH WOULD INVOLVE IEG.

6. REQUEST EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT TO CONTACT BOGAN AND FREEMAN, RESPECTIVELY, FOR AN ANSWER TO REQUESTED LETTER BY TOMORROW MORNING REPLY NIACT.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONER RELEASE, NEGOTIATIONS, HOSTAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ASMARA00517
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740165-0538
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740621/aaaaarkn.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <06-Aug-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : TENNECO FIVE
TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET, ELF, TENNECO FIVE, (DORTZBACH, DEBORAH)
To: STATE ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005